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**Men Who Enjoy Being Women**

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**GENDER  
AND  
SEX**

**Illusions**  
Magazine  
Volume 5 Issue 4

**"HOT" AD'S from  
TV'S & TS'S**

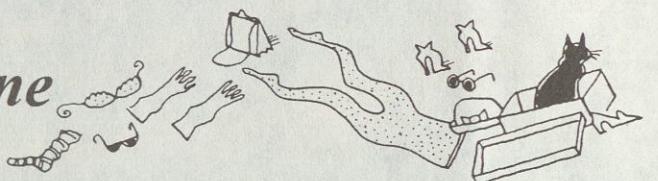
# Dear Reader.....

HO,HO,HO.....Well...the Winter Season has fallen upon us and we are warming up for yet another fabulous Xmas. This year I am really looking forward to the REAL Xmas tree that Illusions will be decorating and setting up for all to enjoy. This really does feel like a home and a family doesn't it? Along with the festivities...lets not forget our Food Bank box and our Toy's for the Kids. Lately we have been thinking that why is it that we only "give" at Xmas? Many of us are more than able to throw a can of food into our donation's box on a regular base. So...Don't forget to bring something everytime you either visit for coffee or attend a social. As far as our Pot Luck Dinner goes...please call in early with your culinary contribution. It makes it alot easier to plan things out if we know in advance.

As far as the magazine goes...its been really flowing along smoother these days with the ever increasing hands. I would really like to thank several people... Karen...thanks for the typing girl..glad you didn't break a nail!, Teri...keep reading the Globe and Mail!, Michelle...thanks for getting to town almost on time, Ty...thanks for being apart of the girls world, Lisa...thanks for the memories, Jadie & Teresa..thanks for the clip art talents...and last but never least..my kid Gina....Thanks for always being around and keeping us going ....Love ya'....(Hi Rita!). Also...don't forget that Lori has organized the Library for all of us and there's some great movies and books to rent out at your leisure. We also have TV/TS Movies for sale now! PS..Bring back your delinquent books...please! Merry Christmas....Safe Holidays..and Happy New Year!

In Mistletoe and Mascara.....

**Love..... Barbie & Christine**



## Illusion Calendar

### **CALGARY**

November 11 TV Bingo III  
November 30 Nail Instruction  
December 16 Potluck Xmas Dinner  
January 13 Las Vegas Nite  
January 25 TY's Magic Makeup  
February 10 Valentine's  
February 29 Regular Social

### **EDMONTON**

November 9 Video Nite  
December 9 Christmas Potluck  
January 20 Queen's Empyre  
February 8 Regular Social  
For Illusions Edmonton information call either 486-9661 or 488-3234 leave a message for Roxanne or Rachel

### **RED DEER**

**Socials:** Every Last Saturday of the Month at "The Other Place Bar". The address is Bay 3 & 4 5579-47St. Red Deer, Alberta. Call (403) 342-6440 for details.

### **ILLUSIONS EDMONTON**

presents.....

### **WINTERFEST 1995**

Saturday December 9th

#### **The Roost**

Dinner and Drinks at 6:00pm. Show at 8:00pm.

FEATURING: A Buffet Turkey Dinner, Designer Fashion Show by Rodeo Drive Collectibles, Floor Show by "Girls of Illusions".

TICKETS: \$20.00 Dinner and Show \$10.00 Show only. Tickets available with Michelle or Teri in Calgary, or call the Gay and Lesbian Community Centre at 488-3234.

**EDITORS: BARBIE, CHRISTINE AND LISA**



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*Meet New Girls*



**GUESS WHO'S NEW AT THE CLUB?**

#374 NIKKI A "graphic kind of girl from Regina

#375 SUSIE New to us

#376 M.W. Self-Employed family person

#377 A.W. New to the

Lifestyle and grateful for any assistance

#378 BRETT Married and peeking out of the closet

#379 DENISE Joining us from "The Deep South", Atlanta, Georgia

#380 LESLIE Just accepting CD life and wish to discover more and meet others

#381 ASHLEY New to Calgary from Vancouver

#382 CORY Long time CD'er and thinks this is the "perfect" place to meet more CD'ers

#383 KAREN Interested in correspondence & meeting others pursuing passability

#384 K.M. Happy to have finally contacted people who know what's happening

#385 JO Glad to see an interesting magazine for us

#386 NICOLE Just discovered the magazine and excited about potential to meet others

#387 JOANNE Fantasized about CD'ing for years and now is finally acting on it

#388 PATTI Another new Cow Town Gal

#389 NICOLE Experienced CD'er just coming to terms with it and glad to have joined

#390 ANNA CDing for over 20 years. Nice to connect

#391 RACHEL Active since '84 but femme is me

#392 LAURIN A "Regina Gal" hoping to meet others

#393 ANDREA A "Speedy Creek" resident into Art and Crossdressing

### **THE LADY UNDERNEATH**

by April L. Willis

For years I've hidden the woman who's always shared my life but I recently introduced her to the woman who is my wife.

They got along rather well; they laughed and talked a bit. My wife began to teach her how to walk, stand and sit. Shopping trips and fashion too, my two best friends together, every experience new.

Everyone has a secret, they hide without a trace, mine lies beneath my clothes silks, satins and lace.

But my wife has met the lady, who for years I've had to hide. There is no problem, they are friends and always at my side.

The lady who for years I've hid, and never left a trace, now is free to come and go and show her pretty face.

## Letter from the Editor

# Blah, Blah, Blah

FANTASY vs. REALITY ('mimsey were the borogroves')

Do you have fantasies of wearing women's clothes? Do you ever act out these fantasies? Do you act out these fantasies in public or in private? Do you simply dream the dream, or do you physically act it out? There is a quantum leap involved, i.e.; fantasizing is one level, acting out a fantasy is a whole new level.

Let's go back in time....do you remember when you made that crossover, (assuming that you have)? Does anyone else know about it, or are you a secret player? Ah, the word "secret" itself has connotations of being exciting, thrilling, even a little dangerous; paralleling what a fantasy could be. A fantasy exists in your mind. Are you willing to share? Lord knows that we all have fantasies. Perhaps they should remain just that. One needs to work the entire fantasy scenario through!

What are the ramifications of crossing the line and turning the fantasy into reality? For example: many bondage genre magazines have posed images that could not possibly be used for any duration in real life. The fantasy has little basis in reality. Perhaps some fantasies should remain so, never able to transform into reality.

Where is this line of thought leading, you might be asking yourself? When a decision is made to cross over from fantasy to reality, has the whole process been thoroughly thought through? Sometimes you really need to analyze what the process involves. DISCOVERY! Yes, indeed, it could involve discovery. Would you be concerned with your new found fantasy-into-reality being discovered?

If you are, let me tell you that you really have to be scrupulous about

covering your tracks. So, you think that your tracks are meticulously covered. Think again!!! This is a very small world in many ways.

Unless you are "doing something" in a different locale, (even then, that is not 100% safe), you better be really careful about any moves that you make.

### WE ALL HAVE FANTASIES!

Now, if you don't care about flirting with disaster, go for it. Disaster can be anything ranging from your unknowing significant - other discovering your secret stash of panties, to inadvertently running into someone that you know while you are all dressed up. If you are harbouring concerns, think it all through very carefully, and then think it through again.

Let's face it, a lot of the time Mr. Dick is telling you what to do. (That is why a lot of men have names for their penis...they don't want a total stranger making 95% of their decisions for them). A lot of the impetus to act out a fantasy is hormonal. Temper the hormonal yearnings with a really level-headed dose of old fashioned brain power.

In short, if you think that your fantasy-into-reality can fly, go for it. If you are exploring and sneaking around outside of your regular relationship, be warned! The odds of discovery are greater than you think.

We are not endorsing sneaking around, but if you have to, keep it low key.

### HOW DO I LOOK?

Enough for now....there's been a lot of ground covered....until next time...

LOTS OF LOVE,

BARBIE



## SOCIAL COMMITTEE NEWS

### Out-of-club expeditions off to a smooth start...

Our September expedition was to dinner and a movie. A dozen of us had a great meal at Avenues Café (811 17th Ave. SW), then went on to see Wigstock, a movie about a New York City drag festival. Avenues has an interesting, Mediterranean-type menu with Oriental touches, reasonable prices, a delicious South African red wine, convenient parking in the rear, a discreet rear entrance and a unisex handicap washroom at the back. Owners Brian and Diane and waitress Chris treated us great and later Diane said we were welcome any time, individually or in groups. In short, it's a great place for a nice sit-down dinner en femme. Check it out!

October means one thing to CDs everywhere: Hallowe'en and a chance for expeditions to places we might normally not be able to go. We did it up in style, as you can read elsewhere in the article "Illusions Ghouls Knock'em Dead on Hallowe'en".

### Upcoming Illusions events...

**November 30** we will welcome Lynn and Melanie of Davlin Enterprises. These two ladies train estheticians in nail care and will speak to us on how to have healthy (and hopefully long) nails, how to minimize nail damage when using artificial nails, etc. We will also be decorating a Christmas tree generously donated by Lady-in-Waiting Christine, so bring any spare Christmas decorations you have lying around or make your own from mismatched earrings or whatever.

**December 9** will be the Edmonton chapter's Christmas bash. Empress Teri, Princess Jacqui and several others are planning to make the trek North. If you would like to attend this gala and are in the Calgary area, call Empress Teri for details.

**December 16** is the Calgary chapter's annual Christmas potluck. Please sign up and indicate what you will be bringing as soon as possible. We need your firm commitments **now!**

**January 13** will be Las Vegas night. We will be having a variety of unconventional, fun games for you to try your luck at. **Volunteers are needed to help plan and implement this event!** Your participation can be anything from coming up with a fun idea for a game to helping to run it for part of the evening. Don't be shy, gals: it's way more fun to be involved than to sit on the sidelines! We will also choose the lucky gal (hopefully a new member) for the Ty Morgan makeover to be done at the next social.

**January 25** Ty Morgan, Calgary's premier makeup artist and Illusions cover girl in the last issue, will do a makeover demonstration. Come along and see just how he manages to look so fabulous on stage and off! We also hope to have a guest from Ultima II to do a makeover for one of the significant others at the same time.

### Also not to be missed...

**Nov. 25** at Trax Calgary's favorite drag duo of Ty & Tyme will be doing their last show before Justine moves to Vancouver. The show starts at midnight.

### Help us organize bigger and better things in '96!

The vote on holding a joint social with the club next door was 24-3 in favour. If they also vote in favour, we will start trying to schedule it ASAP. Our request for other future event concepts elicited a mixed bag of ideas including theme dressing nights (hookers, uniforms, leather, etc.), talent nights, dancing lessons, photo ID night and clothes swaps. There were no particular trends in the responses, so please let us know what you think of these ideas. We still have a couple of Saturdays in the early part of '96 that are in need of a theme.

### Wonder where your money goes?

The money raised by Social Committee fundraisers such as the Wig Draw goes to pay for the cost of prizes, decorations, etc. for club events. Jacqui is our treasurer, so if you ever want to know the details, please feel free to ask her. She has a very impressive record-keeping system.



### The Illusions Library is growing

Thanks to kind donations and your further support



# THE GIRLS UP NORTH

Things just never seem to stop happening here in Edmonton. As reported in the last issue, we were looking for a new meeting place. Our search has been a success. This new meeting place is the Gay & Lesbian Community Centre (GLCC) located below Boystown Cafe @ 10116-124St. Unfortunately the place still needed major renovations so the "Gals" in Edmonton decided to chip in to help. We went down every Tuesday for four weeks to do framing, drywalling and electrical work and ended up doing most of the renovation work ourselves. There will soon be facilities for changing for those girls who can't always do it at home. Our new home should be ready for our November 9th Social.

Also effective immediately, Illusions in Edmonton has a second phone number (488-3234). This is the number of the GLCC, where either Roxy, Rachel or Vikki will be present on Tuesday nights. If you want to contact us on any other night, leave your name and number and the staff at GLCC will pass your number on to us.

For our September and October Socials, the gals met at The Rumpus Room, upstairs from The Roost. The owner, Pat, was generous enough to let us girls use the place on the Thursday nights until our new place was up and running. We had great turnouts each time and not only did we learn from our guest speakers, we all had a great time partying afterwards. We have also started selling 50/50 tickets at our socials, with the first \$300 raised earmarked for the new GLCC.

Encouraged by the success of the Ball in August, we have also decided to hold a major Christmas bash this year. Of course, all the girls from Calgary and everywhere else are welcome. We are having a sumptuous catered dinner followed by a fashion show with clothes designed by Brenda Lee of Rodeo Drive Collectibles of our city.

After the fashion show, there is also going to be performances by some local girls and others from around the province. We are also hoping to have a special guest performer. We are counting on a major turnout for this gala. Mark off December 9th on all your calendars! Tickets at only \$20 each and are available with Teri and Michelle in Calgary or Roxy & Rachel in Edmonton. We are also having a drive for the Edmonton Food Bank at this party. Please bring a donation with you when you come. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

## REMEMBER.....

November 9 - Video Night  
December 9 - Christmas Party  
January 11 - Regular Social (Comportment)  
January 20 - Excursion to Queen's Empyre  
February 8 - Regular Social (Speaking as a Woman)  
February 20 - Slut Night!?

Another major step taken by the gals in Edmonton is that starting in January, we will also be having socials on SATURDAYS. These will be on every third Saturday of the month. Our first social will be an excursion to a new club in town called "Queen's Empyre", where we "GIRLS" get treated like royalty!

I guess that sums up what's been happening in Edmonton recently. We'll be seeing you out on the town soon.

XOX  
Rachel

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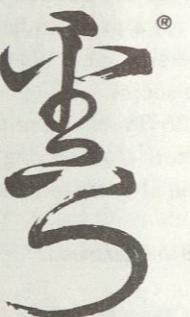
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## RANDOM THOUGHTS

BY: MICHELLE HART  
1st PRINCESS V

I loved the last issue of the Illusions Magazine. Not only was a wonderful picture of my mentor/teacher, make up artist Ty Morgan on the front cover, but the articles and letters inside confirmed that many of us had an active and fun filled summer. We had members arriving and writing about the joys of their coming out experiences, while others like Gina, Dana and Sonya were out there pushing the boundaries with their "PRISCILLA" trip to Vancouver. Thanks to them, Priscilla the movie is no longer fiction, it's now a Canadian reality! The Gals from Edmonton have been active and are taking charge of their destiny. They have found a permanent home for themselves and are busy organizing events in an effort to encourage new members from the Edmonton area and have fun at the same time. A few of us from Calgary have attended some of their past events and will be attending the Edmonton Christmas Party. It should be noted that many of the Edmonton Gals have been very supportive of some of our Calgary and Red Deer events...so come on Gals lets get up there and show'em that we appreciate their efforts!

Speaking of Red Deer, it's been interesting to see the change that has taken place since we first started going there. Doug the owner of The Other Place, set the foundations for growth by providing an open and accepting social environment. Dana found it, explored it and encouraged us to go there. Still, the Red Deer crowds experience with crossdressers was very limited and at first was reserved. I remember about a month or two after the first big Illusions event, Monica and I had a chance to go back. When we walked through the front door everything stopped. People were quietly staring at us. It was an awkward moment that only ended

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## THE WILD SIDE OF AFRICA

Once a year Bassam, the abandoned colonial capital of the west African country of Ivory Coast, comes alive with a festival known as Abissa. No matter where they may now be, people from the area, known as the Nzima, return for a week long celebration of reconciliation with enemies and truth telling. The festival begins with a night of dancing, as the Globe and Mail reported on November 7, 1995. "A close look at the whirling crowd, however, revealed something more peculiar. The full breasted women in the gaudiest dresses who seemed to be having the most fun were not women at all, but men. Likewise, the too serious men in their tightly clasped neckties were not men at all, but women". True to the festival's intent of erasing all inhibitions, if only for a week, Abissa is, among other things, a parade of gaudy crossdressing. It is also a moment when forbidden love is declared between men and women who are married (but not to each other), and where long silenced hurts and confessions are paraded before the world. Maybe Africa is not only the cradle of civilisation, but crossdressing as well!

## TRANSSEXUAL RESEARCH

Men who choose to become women do not feel female simply for psychological reasons, but because their brain's are like women's, says Dr. Dick Swaab of the Netherlands Institute for Brain Research. His team studied the brains of six male to female transsexuals over 11 years, paying special attention to the part of the brain that is important to sexual behaviour.

Their research revealed the area to be the same in transsexuals as it is in women. Dr. Swaab says the female region may develop before maturity, probably as a result of interaction between hormones and the brain.

EXTRACTED FROM THE GLOBE AND MAIL, NOV. 4, 1995.

...Love, Michelle Hart

## HOW DO YOU DO IT?

### Part II: Body shaping

Although your body is probably shaped quite differently from a woman's, it can be made to look feminine a lot more easily and convincingly than your face. Clothes will cover up a lot of what you have to do underneath to achieve this. In this issue Empress I Stephanie and Empress V Teri give you an "inside" look at what they do under their clothes to make different body shapes look feminine.

*Body Shaping; or how to appear to have things you don't have and not to have things you do have, by Empress I Stephanie.*

#### Breasts and Cleavage

The illusion of breasts can be created by filling one's bra cups with any spherical object. Grapefruit, oranges, rice bags, coconuts, etc., are all handy if you are stranded on a desert island, but not very realistic looking. The best forms are silicone mastectomy aids. Lingerie by Barbie has a new line of breast forms that look promising and are considerably cheaper. An even less expensive alternative (one that could cause some embarrassment if a balloon ruptures) is to fill a large, thick latex balloon with a viscous liquid like cheap hair conditioner. The tricks are to have a large enough balloon that when you have the correct amount of fluid in it the balloon is not stretched and to get all of the air out of the balloon. The forms and balloons all look, move, and feel real as long as your clothes cover the bra.

To create cleavage, or the part that overflows the bra, is a bit harder. "If you are trying to make a silk purse out of a sow's ear, it is best to start with a silk sow". The same goes for cleavage. This is definitely an area where the more well padded of us have an advantage. If you put your left hand under your right arm and vice versa and then pull together you will get a good idea of the maximum amount of cleavage possible for you. The trick is to keep it when you let go. I have

tried several methods with varying degrees of success. My experience with taping has been less than satisfactory. While the results are reasonably good, the stress the tape puts on the skin can cause bruises that may take as long as a week to clear up. Pulling the tape off may leave abrasions on the skin that turn into scabs, even if you shave the hair off the area before taping. If you must tape, have a product like Solvoplast (a product used to remove adhesive tape from skin) handy, use tape at least two inches wide, and don't pull too hard. If you do use tape, do not expect to create more than half the cleavage that you could with your hands.

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#### Photos by Alexis

The second way is to wear your bra tighter than usual and pad it in your usual manner, then pull the flesh from under your arms to the centre and up so it will stay above the bra. If the bra is tight enough and the padding firm enough, it will act like the recently rediscovered Wonderbra. This cleavage has a tendency to disappear as time goes on and you will have to pull the flesh back up every so often.

I made a device that creates the same effect as taping but without the bruising and abrasion. It consists of two leather pads that fit under the arms, attached at the back with strong three-inch elastic and at the front with corset laces. When the laces are tightened, the pads pull the underarm flesh forward and up and above the bra. You then put the bra on, pad it to a natural contour and pull what flesh you can above the leather pads. The

cleavage will stay better than with a bra alone. It is not as comfortable as the bra-only method, but it is much more comfortable and safer than tape. When you wear low-necked clothing, apply foundation to all visible skin on your neck and chest and use the contour and highlighter to accent your cleavage. Darken in a Y-shape between your breasts and highlight on either side. To avoid dry-cleaning bills approaching the national debt, powder well, set with a damp cloth, and spray with hair spray. A light spray of Scotchguard on the neck area of the clothes also helps. Ultima II has a foundation called Wonder Wear that is not supposed to come off on clothes. It does not have a lot of shades, but from my limited experience almost lives up to its claims.

#### Waists. And how to have one

This is where the girls that can't create much cleavage get even. They usually don't need much help in this department. The rest of us must use a corset, girdle or waist cincher. For a corset to be effective it should be a lace-up type. The pull-on types hold your stomach in but don't do much to your waist size. If you are buying a corset (custom made can be had through Lingerie by Barbie) or girdle through Sears order one about four inches smaller than your pants size. When on and tightened it should result in a reduction of two or three inches in your waist size. Corsets and girdles of the heavy-duty variety aren't very comfortable to wear and will definitely leave marks on your skin for up to a day.

Waist cinchers come in two basic types, boned and not boned. The boned ones are the only way to go as the others roll at the top and bottom. The best compromise between comfort and effectiveness is to use a firm panty girdle and a back support designed for heavy lifting. The support is made of heavy elastic and has boning to prevent rolling. It fastens with Velcro at the front, and the better ones also have elastic side straps. They will reduce the waist measurement as much as a good corset

(Continued on Page 9)

## FANTASIES & LOGIC: THE CURSE OF MR. SPOCK

by Teri

Although there's no reason you can't dress a little wild for any Illusions social, most of us generally feel more comfortable attending in fairly conventional looks. Some go ultra-conservative, some are a little more daring, but one seldom sees anything too exotic. Dress for Pleasure, our annual fantasy dressing evening, provides the excuse we need to let our fantasies out of the bag.

Since I generally go for sleek form-fitting looks, some were probably a little surprised to see me waddle into the Dress for Pleasure social in a maternity dress. Leather, latex and similar "typically exotic" stuff have never had any particular interest for me. I have always had a fantasy about being pregnant, but that was the first time I felt the moment was right to let anyone know. It was far from the first time I had dressed that way, though. In fact, before joining Illusions, when I used to go for neighbourhood strolls, that was how I always dressed. I didn't even own any non-maternity outfits! The unusualness of the very idea probably actually helped me pass, since I don't think anybody would think of a crossdresser dressed as a pregnant woman walking through a residential neighbourhood in broad daylight. Once I came out and started to read magazines about CDing, I searched in vain for any mention of anyone with a similar fantasy.

This fantasy is rather illogical in several ways. I have very little interest in sex (the low-tech prerequisite for getting into that state) and certainly none in the pain involved in childbirth or the decades of hard work involved in rearing a child after birth. And even if I had decided to go ahead with a sex reassignment surgery (a possibility I seriously considered at one point), my fantasy would have remained unfulfilled. Nevertheless, the idea of experiencing a pregnancy has been a

fixation for many years. Sometimes I would think about why I had these thoughts: was it the "ultimate" sign of being a part of the female "club" I so wished to join? A subconscious desire to let something take over my life and free me from the heavy burden of responsibility for what happens to me that follows from my strong belief in personal choice? Eventually I came to regard it as just another one of life's inexplicable but harmless mysteries, like why I want to dress up in the first place.

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voting. But when it comes to our fantasies, I really think we have to leave it behind. If we seek logical consistency within our fantasies or try to reason them through to their logical conclusions, all we do is bring ourselves to grief. In the same way I may fantasize about being pregnant but not want to have children to look after (which would be the inevitable consequence of fulfilment of my fantasy), one may fantasize about being a woman without being attracted to men, or wish one could be escorted as a woman on a date without wanting to carry the evening to a sexual conclusion. When we try to make all the pieces fit, all we do is send our minds spinning into circles. The logic of our fantasy may break down, but who says logic has any place in that realm, anyway? We are not Vulcans, clones of Mr. Spock who must put their every action to rigorous logical scrutiny. Part of being human is having a side where logic seldom rears its head. And of all the areas where we might let this side of us run wild, sexuality is probably the one where such departures from rationality are both most likely and most pleasurable, yet least harmful.

So next time you start torturing yourself about what your personal fantasy means, relax. As long as it's not hurting anyone and you take precautions where necessary, giving your fantasies a little free rein is probably healthy. There are lots of areas where life requires us to be rational or pay a heavy price. Letting loose in a harmless area may help you by allowing you to discipline yourself to follow logic in the areas of our lives where it really counts. Now, doesn't that sound logical?

(Editors Note:

Thank-you Dr. Spock or Mr. Spock, it's all so confusing.....OR.....IS IT?)

Dear Illusions: The Gals of Summer event was quite enjoyable. Again I had the good fortune to have special friends contribute to the enjoyable experience. The event blessed me with the opportunity to meet some new people, whom I plan to exchange correspondence with. Should help me to learn more about the lifestyle and give others a chance to get to know me. The Gals of Summer event was also very special because I had the pleasure of my wife's company. She enjoyed the evening and new friendships as much as I did. And she was one of the lucky ones to win a door prize. There were many new experiences for her during the preparations and throughout the evening. All of which have strengthen her involvement in this aspect of my life. As she so aptly put it: "To know, understand and love you; I must know, understand and love Beverly, for she is a real part of who you are".

The success of your evening is a reminder of the unselfish efforts of several people within the Illusions Club. Most of those involved were mentioned during the evening. I feel the efforts of Michelle Hart, and wife Brenda were not acknowledged as much as they could have been. I know everyone really appreciated their efforts. Some may even have noticed how the stress and worry of wanting the event to turn out great (which it did I must say) showed through the smiling features of Michelle. She is able to smile a lot easier than I. Michelle it turned out great. I know everyone who attended will echo this. You deserve to bask in the knowledge that you did a wonderful job. Take a break from the Princess duties and relax for a day or two; you earned it! With loving thoughts: Beverly #360

Dear Barbie & Christine: I've decided to know more CD'ers from Edmonton. Hope all goes well. Must go to an Edmonton Illusions meeting soon or I will forget what a dress is! Love Barbra.

Dear Barbie: Hi! It's so very, very nice to meet you! I've been looking for you everywhere for years! My name is "Nichole", you can call me Nikki. I had just recently heard of "Illusions" club through the most recent issue of TV Connection, Vol 4, No 4. In which the club received a most positive review from one of its regular contributors. Then, through a friend I met recently I got my first look at "Illusions" Magazine. He was just through there on holiday and decided to check out the club. Unfortunately he picked the slowest month of the year and didn't get to meet any of the girls. Maybe next time he'll pick up a phone, duh! Men, honestly! But...he did bring back a copy of your magazine and for that I'll be eternally grateful. I still have trouble believing that you all are out there! The first thing that struck me about the magazine was the warm and sisterly way that it comes across. I've never even seen the place yet but I felt like I was reading a letter from home! The second thing that hit me was the superior quality of the printed black and white photos. Also, how absolutely gorgeous everyone is, especially the royalty. My confidence in my own look was shaken but no so shaken that I didn't write to some of the girls. Especially Lisa and Diane, sigh. Lastly, I was very impressed by the complete lack of reference to sex, sex acts, and nasty suggestions in the personals. Thank you so, so much. That gets so tiring on a girl and the dignity is refreshing.

I've been crossdressing since I was about fourteen. I'm not sure when exactly. It feels like it's always been that way. I grew up in a conservative home so I had to become an expert on living in the closet. Convincing everyone that I was "cured" was the hardest part. The lying you know. It makes things 'difficult'. It's not until the last five years or so that the desire to come out and run with the pack became so strong that I couldn't ignore it anymore. Maybe it's got to do with the fact that I'd like to get out and express this nature while I'm still young enough to enjoy it! But Barbie, I could never find the pack. If there.....

(continued on page 12)

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# Letters TO THE ED

# Illusions Christmas

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The door fee of \$10 is waived if you bring a dish or condiment. We are looking for salads, veggies, dips, desserts and pop. Call Barbie at Illusions: 236 - 7072 and let her know what you'll bring. Turkey, potatoes and gravy are supplied by the club.

In lieu of a gift exchange, members are asked to donate items to the Food Bank and unwrapped toys to women's shelters. Collection boxes are now available at Illusions.

In previous years our club has unselfishly helped those less fortunate. We have so much to be thankful for, let's continue that spirit.

**The Christmas Pot-luck is one of Illusions biggest parties of the year. Don't miss it, wear your best dress too!**

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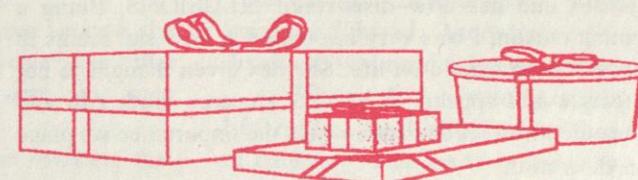
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(continued from page 10) LETTERS.....

was one. I've heard of several decent looking and well presented TV's in Regina but mostly as objects of ridicule. And I could never find them to save my life. I tried every form of personal ad you can imagine. Finally resorting to the adult book store and getting responses was and still is like pulling teeth! All I seem to attract is horny men! Yuk!

So here I am. All dressed up and no place to go. That's why I'm so happy to have stumbled across you. If I didn't mention, I'm obviously TV with TS leanings. I love everything about being a girl. I love the leather and lace sissy type look. Heels, lingerie and full makeup of course. I work as hard as I can to be passable, but it's so hard by yourself and sometimes I wonder about my presentation. I'm hoping that involvement with the group and yourself will help things dramatically. Can you help Barbie? I would appreciate any advice you can offer. I want out of the closet so bad. I'll take any criticism! Thanks in advance Barbie! I look forward to sharing with you more in future contacts. Again I'm so glad to have found you. Take care, God bless and keep up the good work. I hope to hear from you soon. Keep the faith. Yours Nikki!

Dear MS. Anderson: I read the article about your shop in the Toronto Star. I am and have been since I was about nine years old a "crossdresser". Until my wife died, I had to do it in secret. Luckily, I had a friend who was a transsexual which helped me a lot as I could go to his/her house and do it without arousing suspicion in my wife. However, since her death in mid November of last year, I have been able to do it any time I wish. Accordingly, I have assembled a fairly complete female wardrobe but have the same trouble as "Christine" mentioned in her article. Thank you for "being there" and for your consideration and I hope your assistance. Yours very truly...."P.D."

Dear Barbie and Christine: When I first began beauty school in February 1995, it was with the intention of attaining a predominantly feminine trade. It was also to give our "girls" an avenue to receive full aesthetic services without the embarrassment and abuse when going to a salon. Having now successfully completed my schooling, I see the demand significantly lower than the supply. I have learned that anybody who cares about themselves, takes care of their body and skin. Most women can do aesthetic services at home, but being a woman, is also being pampered. In future articles I would like to touch on aesthetic services available, professional tips. I'd like to help the girls find out what's available! Rachael.

Dear Barbie and Christine: At our "executive" meeting of the Edmonton Illusions group, Dixie turned over responsibility for interviewing new members to both Rachel and myself.

We have since interviewed a prospective new member...her name is Alli. Alli is the lesbian co-chair of the Edmonton Gay and Lesbian Community Center. She is a very nice and sincere person with a strong interest in helping and working with all transgendered groups. She is very open to the crossdressing lifestyle and has a number of crossdressing friends (none of which are currently with Illusions). I felt very comfortable talking with Alli, she is obviously genuine.

We have also interviewed a crossdresser named Veronica. She is relatively young and has managed to refine her art. She also has many contacts with crossdressers and drag queens and has now discovered ILLUSIONS. Being a young person, I was very impressed at how she seems to have a good handle on life. She has given thought to her lifestyle and appears to be very sincere. Both Alli and Veronica well realize and respect the importance we place on discretion.

Roxanne #365.

#### SPEED BUMP

By Dave Coverly



#### The long-term hazards of crossdressing

**T**he best way to develop a good relationship is to maintain the relationship you have already developed with yourself.

#### Image



# DUDE LOOKS Like a Lady

By Vanessa Friedman

ALLURE APRIL 1995

Emerald has the kind of face that drives men to bad metaphors. "Skin like a dusty rose," they say. "Eyes like roast almonds."

Her friend Tora has the kind of face - porcelain skin, smoky Asiatic eyes - that loosens observers from their moorings.

"Are you real?" they stammer wonderingly. Noby, with her sunburst eyes and lush lips, elicits whistles and catcalls on the street, and Lady Bunny, a prototypical southern belle, all high hair and long lashes, leaves people simply speechless.

They look, the four of them, alternately glamorous, exotic, and doll-like; the reactions they provoke are the gasps and gurgles once accorded the queens of the silver screen. Which makes a certain amount of sense, in a way, because Emerald,

Tora, Noby and Lady Bunny are entertainers and they are queens, albeit more cosmetic than cinematic: They're drag queens.

Actually they are female impersonators, which is a sub category of the larger genre, Men Who Dress as Girls.

Female impersonators, as opposed to, for example, transvestites (men who dress as women and who look like men dressing as women, with large, masculine builds, heavy features and five o'clock shadows), tend to have small bones and fine features and look more like genetic females than genetic females themselves. Which, to hear the "gender illusionists" tell it, has something to do with natural gifts and something to do with political trends, but most of all it has something to do with the art of makeup.

"Drag Queens have become the glamour girls of yesteryear that women used to be, and that men want," Tora says.

"We are the feminine women that came before feminism, before women

became guys and no makeup was best." In the world of Tora et al., "no makeup" is anathema, because makeup -- from the most elemental base to the lightest stroke of contour to the ultimate surgical application of an eyelash -- is their "secret weapon" (Lady Bunny), "bible" (Emerald) and "magic wand" (Noby). Not that they are cabalistic about it. Lady Miss Kier Kirby, the lead singer of the pop group Deee-Lite, who is famous for her music and her spectacularly made-up (female) face, happily admits that she learned her cosmetic ABC's at the feet of her drag-queen buddies, and that they're generous with their expertise.

It all starts with concealer. Most female impersonators have, thanks to nature or electrolysis, little or no facial hair, and thus no need for the thick-as-a-pancake look that so many associate with drag queens. To eradicate "nature's little flaws" -- the under eye circles, enlarged pores, and blotches of mysterious origin that are universally bemoaned -- their preferred tool is Pan-Stik, a gigantic waxy crayon, which is dotted all over the face and then blended, with either the fingers or a dime store cosmetic sponge. "It's almost like another layer of skin," Noby says. "It's like creating a base." It's also pretty basic, as far as beauty routines go -- unlike the next step, contouring, which could be considered the makeup equivalent of highly advanced plastic surgery. It allows the creation of razor sharp cheekbones where once there was only oh-so-pinchable flesh, the raising of Grecian noses out of pugs, and the sanding of square foreheads into perfect ovals.

"If you hadn't seen your friends for a while," Emerald says slyly, "and you did your contour, and then you bumped into them, they would look at you and say, 'There's something different....'" Then they would say, "You had your nose done!" "Forget knives and thread. According to these divas, all you need is brown powder.

Witness Noby, who in another life, could almost be called the Queen of contour. She shadows her nose -- a line of brown powder on each side

# Throne Speech

by Empress Teri

You've probably heard of the strapless bra, pushup bra, torpedo bra and Wonderbra. All of these were great marketing successes. You probably haven't heard of the J-Cloth bra. For reasons which I will explain below, it never exactly swept the country. The story begins in the early 70s in the fashion capital of south-central Ontario, Uptergrove. Technically I guess I should say suburban Uptergrove, since we lived a good mile down the road from Tromblay's Supertest station and the general store that comprised the shopping district of downtown Uptergrove.

I had been enviously admiring the development of the girls in my seventh and eighth grade classes and finally decided to act on my impulses. Since I was too scared to try on my mother's clothes at that point, I drew upon a vast supply of J-cloths that my grandfather had liberated from the golf-club polishing supplies of the course where he worked and fashioned my own custom garment by knotting pieces together. When no one was around I wore this out in the garage under my shirt. I also cinched my waist by pulling my belt so tight that I had to punch an extra hole about six inches in from the last factory notch.

We had a detached double garage that, like most, usually had more junk than cars in it. One day while I was out there playing, my sister and her friend from across the road peeked in and then came in unexpectedly. Her friend asked whether I was really that thin and I had to quickly come up with my first cross-dressing excuse: I just wanted to see how tight my belt would go.

Well, that close call ended my adventures in the garage and led me to play in the house, where at least the windows had drapes. Of course, the house also had drawers of fun things to wear, so I quickly abandoned development of the J-cloth bra in the face of the overwhelming

technological superiority of the Playtex Corporation.

But the squelching of a revolutionary new undergarment design concept was not the only lasting effect of that unexpected interruption. Having been almost caught once, I opted for much greater attention to counter-discovery measures. I even went so far as to pin the curtains closed so that a stray breeze would not allow the police to observe me with the high-powered telescopes I was sure they used to track down people like me.

The particulars may differ from individual to individual, but it seems to me that for the same general reasons most crossdressers have developed a similarly deep sense of paranoia about the reactions of others by the time they reach adulthood. Even after we come out and join a club like Illusions, we still tend to expect the worst from every situation involving an outsider.

Two recent experiences have led me to rethink this attitude.

The first was organizing our expedition to see "Wigstock" at the Uptown theatre. When I called the theatre to see if it would be OK for a group of us to come en femme, the assistant manager sounded surprised that I would even bother to ask. Then, on the suggestion of the infamous Ty Morgan, I contacted the Avenues Café (811-17th Ave SW) about having the group in for dinner before the movie.

I went in wearing my best (actually my only) dark blue (boy's) business suit to make a good impression and to my surprise, when I spoke to Brian, one of the co-owners, he knew of our club and didn't even blink an eye as I filled him in on the particulars of the reservation. The evening went off without a hitch, the food was great and we received great service from our waitress, Chris, and co-owner Diane.

When I had a chance to speak to Diane afterwards, she said we were welcome anytime, individually or as a

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group. Again, no big deal.

The second experience was telling my parents about Teri. I had already told most of my close friends and relatives (with uniformly positive acceptance), but I had hesitated about telling them. My Dad is a pretty traditional guy, now in his 60s, and I had only met my stepmother on a few brief occasions, since they live back east (my birth mother passed away a few years ago). I went down to Montana to rendezvous with them for a weekend as they drove across the continent en route to California, and after gingerly sounding them out on a few things, I showed them my pictures (if you belong to Illusions and I haven't forced you to look at these yet, you must be pretty good at hiding--but I'll track you down and corner you eventually!).

To my great relief, their reaction was also very accepting. In fact, a week or so later I received a card from my stepmother which read in part: "...thank you for sharing with us about your life now. I, for one, want to tell you that my wish for you is that you do and be whatever makes you content and happy. And whatever you do in your future, you do have my best wishes. I would like very much some day to meet Teri. She is very beautiful and I know a beautiful soul whom I've met. Love and my best to you, B."

My Dad, with typical male deference to female superiority in the expression of emotion, added: "I agree with B.'s viewpoint and feel she has expressed our feelings better than I could. Love, Dad."

(Continued on Page )

## Ty Morgan's: TOP 10 CD MAKEUP TIPS

**1. No blue eye shadow!** Ever! Makeup should strive to enhance nature--and the only time your skin is naturally blue is if you're about to freeze to death. Seriously, blue eyeshadow does **not** bring out blue eyes, it camouflages them by providing a similarly coloured background.

**2. When it comes to foundation,** coverage is next to godliness. Liquid makeup will not do it on the beard area. You need something with an oil base: beard cover creams, pansticks, or a corrective foundation intended to cover acne and scars like Dermablend. The higher pigment content in these products also enables you to avoid looking "crossdresser orange", which often happens when you try to get coverage by using a darker shade of liquid and powder. Your makeup should match, or be a shade **lighter** than, your natural skin tone. And be sure to cover all the skin that shows down to your neckline.

**3. Once you have a good foundation on,** your face is like a painter's canvas: nice and even, but totally flat. You need to put some shape back into your face. Applying a lighter tone (e.g. white) will make the area appear more prominent. Contouring or shading with a darker colour will make it appear to recede. Combining these rules can work wonders. For example, applying a darker shade to the sides and bottom of your nose and white along the ridge will make your nose appear narrower and smaller. It can even create the optical illusion of straightening a crooked nose--and is much cheaper than a nose job.

**4. Blend, blend, blend!** Nature will draw harsh lines on your face soon enough (it's called aging, dear), so don't add to the problem. When you contour, highlight, and apply blush and eyeshadow, blend the colours by stroking gently with a soft, fluffy brush. By reducing the density of the pigment on the area where you applied

it and spreading a little onto the surrounding area this reproduces the soft, natural shadowing of the bone structure you are attempting to create the illusion of. Also, avoid frosted eye shadows and blushes; they tend to highlight lines and wrinkles.

**5. Avoid "join-the-dots syndrome".** When you outline something, you don't have to go all the way around, no matter what your third-grade teacher told you. When you outline your eyes with eyeliner, don't complete the bottom line. The area from the inner part of the eye to just below your pupil should remain open to create the illusion of a larger eye. And when you outline your lips, don't go right to the corners of your mouth. Remember, they aren't on hinges. You're drawing lips, not a bear trap!

**6. Keep the Tammy Faye Baker memorabilia away from your makeup area!** Unless you are **trying** to look like her (or a cheap hooker), find a **subtle** set of colours that coordinate with each other and your natural colouring. If you haven't yet developed this colour sense (and few men do until they have taken makeup seriously for a while), consult a knowledgeable professional. You will quickly recoup any money you spend because you will finally stop buying cosmetics you throw out after the first use when you see they just don't work for you.

**7. Makeup can help you to make the most of what you have,** but your personal grooming and skin care habits can make sure the base you start with is as good as possible. Avoid excessive exposure to the sun and use sun blocks to slow the appearance of wrinkles. Use a moisturizer daily, particularly under the eyes. Try tweezing out a few of the stray hairs below the main part of your brows. Often by removing only a few of these strays you can significantly increase the area available for applying eye shadow. If done a few at a time, no

one will notice and you will probably also appear younger in your male guise as well.

**8. Take your time.** The Mona Lisa wasn't painted in one sitting. If you really want to look your best, it will probably take you at least an hour, and more likely one-and-a-half to two hours. Don't look at this as time down the tube. After all, what more typically feminine activity is there? Think of this time as a transition period for you to begin to feel feminine. Budget your time so you won't be rushed. **You're worth it!**

**9. Be realistic and relax.** There are no products made that will allow you to exactly duplicate female skin well enough to pass scrutiny under bright lights at a distance of three inches. Although this is how we often see ourselves in the mirror when applying products, no one is going to get **that** close to you (hit them with your purse if they do!). Take a step back and look at yourself from a normal conversational distance of two to three feet in typical living room lighting. If you look good at that level, you can feel confident you have done a good job that will draw compliments.

**10. Unlike aluminum siding,** makeup does require maintenance. Keep a compact in your purse for touch-ups. Every couple of hours (sometimes even sooner if you have especially oily skin) you will start looking shiny (yes, this does show even in low light). Your lipstick will also tend to come off from drinking and licking your lips. This provides a convenient excuse to boost your confidence by looking at yourself in the mirror and admiring the fine job you did earlier--even if you do have to fight with Empress Teri to get near the mirror in the first place!

(Editors Note: THANKS..... *Ty*)

## Body Shaping (cont'd from Page 1)

or girdle and are more comfortable and easier to get out of. They are available at hardware stores and at places such as Home Care.

### Hips. Why we need them

Most men are too narrow in the hips to fill out women's clothes properly unless they use hip pads. There are commercial padded panty girdles available, but remember that just like panty hose one size does not fit all. Lingerie by Barbie will make hip pad panty girdles for you and are usually an in stock item. You may find it necessary to make your own. This is not hard. Just start with furniture foam, cut it in an elliptical shape and taper the circumference to the centre of the ellipse. Start with foam one inch thick, cut with an electric knife and finish with scissors. Start a bit large as you can always trim more off if needed.

*And now a few words from Empress Teri...*

In planning your overall shape, start with the waist. I usually use a "waist nipper", which is a light, boned cincher that does up with bra-type hooks. Though not as effective as lace-up corsets, these are much more comfortable and do not show through under tight clothes as much (I got mine from JC Penney by mail order for US\$21; Sears also has them, though only in larger sizes). Get one sized about four inches smaller than the waist size you are aiming for; this may be as much as six to eight inches smaller than your natural "feminine" waist. Depending on how soft your waist is, they can take off two to four inches. For example, my normal male waist is 32". Measured higher, where a woman's waist is, it's 30". My nipper is size small, intended for 24-26" waists and takes off two inches on me, reducing it to 28". If I am wearing something made out of thin material that would show the boning in the nipper, sometimes I substitute a wide band of elastic cut to a length that pulls the waist in the same amount.

Because it tends to curl up, however, this is not as comfortable as the nipper.

Once you have your waist size, you can either pad your hips and bust to fit a particular dress size or, if you are going to wear stretchy clothes or get them custom-made (which I have to do anyway because of my height), to match a desired ratio. The "ideal", but rare, 36-24-36 translates into a hip and bust to waist ratio of 1.5:1. Starting with a 28" waist, this means the bust and hips should be 42" (i.e. 1.5 times 28). If you are a little fuller figured, you may want to reduce the ratio to, say, 1.25:1.

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### Photos by Alexis

I use silicone mastectomy breast forms. These look very real, and occasionally a curious woman has given mine a poke and said they also feel very real (who better to judge?). They are very expensive, though (about \$500 a pair), so if you go this route be very sure of your size as they must be considered a once-only lifetime investment. Mine were chosen so that in combination with my natural chest they give a measurement of 1.5 times 28", or 42". They tend to be heavy, particularly in the larger sizes, so I wear my bra tight so as to make them blend in to my body contours. My hip pads were custom made for me by Barbie from a fibrefill material like that used to stuff sleeping bags or cheap coats. There are two secrets to good hip padding. One is to start them up high enough so that they blend in smoothly. This means the top should be thin and come up to your "love

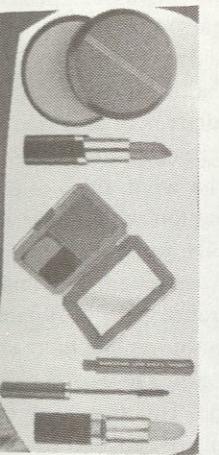
handles", just above the hip bone. They need to gradually get larger till they reach the desired size (1.5 times 28", or 42" again in my case--after allowing for compression by girdles), then taper down so that they blend smoothly into the leg. The second secret can be summed up in three words: lycra, lycra, lycra. I use three layers of panty girdles or "bike pants" to smooth the pads into my overall contours. Try to get seamless ones, or at least different styles so that the seams don't pile up and make ridges visible through your clothes.

Once you've built the body of your dreams, if you want to wear something clingy, stretch knits are the easiest to wear because their thickness hides the seams in your undergarments. Thinner materials like spandex show seams much more, and take a little experimenting to get the foundations right. The first compliment you get from an envious woman will make the effort invested in your new figure more than worth the effort, though, so give it a try and have fun!

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of the bone, as well as some inside the nostrils -- to get rid of the button problem.

She then dusts with brown from the base of the ear along the jawbone to the chin and -- most important -- under the chin itself, to give it more definition. And for her cheekbones: a thin line of brown under the bone (never on top). "What I'm going for," she says, "is for people to look at me and say, 'How did you do that?'



### NOBY

"Drugstores have everything," Noby says, and that includes Max Factor International Pan-Stik, Coty Airspun Face Powder, Maja Cream-Powder, Cover Girl Invisible Concealer, and Revlon Timeliner for Eyes.

The secret lies in the blending, the goal being to avoid the Michael Jackson striped nose effect. Also the chipmunk-cheek eruption. "You never put a darker color on something that you want to stand out," says Lady Bunny, who claims that the ultimate advertisement for the hollow cheeked face, Marlene Dietrich, used black shadow under her cheekbones. Of course, there are exceptions to every rule. "If you want to look young and sweet, Tora instructs, "put a light pink blush right on cheekbones. It softens out the face and gives a healthy glow." And that means going from 30 to 16 in one flick of the brush. Or bat of the eyes. "Everyone should pay attention to the eyes," Noby says. "After all, they're the first thing you notice when you look at someone. A day shouldn't begin without eye makeup. You don't have to be extreme -- you can use natural colors -- but you should always do something."

Lady Bunny, who defines her look as "dark eyes and loads of lash," recommends false eye lashes almost indiscriminately -- which can present

a problem for the inexperienced lash user, who risks bearing a peculiar resemblance to a pelican if the lash comes loose at the ends and begins to flap lazily with every blink. The solution? Tora advocates putting little beads of glue along the edge of the false eyelash (not the eyelid: "You might hit yourself in the eyeball")

and bending the strip into an arc that mirrors the eye's natural shape, all the while blowing on the glue until it becomes slightly tacky. Then line it up with your real lashes, press down, and bingo! "They make anyone look like a star," Lady Bunny enthuses. "I don't think you can lose with a little false eyelash." Unless you wear only false eyelashes. "It doesn't look right," cautions Lady Bunny, "to have a subtle eyeliner with a heavy false lash."

### EMERALD

This diva says makeup is her "bible." Emerald's basics, from top: Revlon Age Defying Concealer, L'Oréal Lash Out Mascara, Revlon Pure Radiance Powder Bronzer, L'Oréal Mandarine lipstick, and Max Factor International Pan-Cake.

Lady Bunny's eye routine is somewhat complicated but well worth the effort. She first lines her eyes with black liquid liner, swinging it up at the outer corners, a la Zsa Zsa Gabor and Barbara Eden. Think of it as the eyeliner version of an accent aigu. Above the black line, she places a white liquid liner to make the eye "pop out." Next comes some frosty shadow on the lid and under the brow. She tops it all off with a darker shadow in the crease of the eye, drawn from the inner corner to the outer edge of the eyebrow. "Why bother if it looks natural?" Lady Bunny says. "It should be fun, and it should be dramatic."

If Lady Bunny's eye look tends



## LADY BUNNY

Lady Bunny admires Barbara Eden's look. "No one can touch her," she says. Bunny's favorite products include M.A.C. Pongo Peach Powder Blush, any false eyelashes, white liquid eyeliner, Maybelline Expert Eyes brow and eye pencil, and M.A.C. Pressed Powder Compact.

toward funky drama, Tora's is more on the mystery-drama side. Part Chinese, Peruvian and Turkish, she has slightly slanted eyes with flattish lids. To give them a hooded, come hither cast, she uses only a dark, greyish blue shadow on the lids and smudged under the eyes and then plays it off against a lighter pink brushed under the brow bone. Emerald advises covering up eyebrows with foundation and then drawing on arches for 40's movie-star glamour. And it's an open secret that angling up ones liner and shadow is the key to achieving a geisha-esque appearance. Other tricks include drawing the liner slightly downward for rounder, more 70's-style eyes and filling in the corners between the nose and the brow for a melancholy look -- Pierrot goes punk.

Because the eyes are such a "major statement" (Lady Bunny) for most drag queens, the lips get less attention. "If your eyes are very dark, the lips should be lighter," Tora says. "The look should always be balanced." Many favour lip liner a shade darker than their lipstick, and most champion lip gloss. Noby for its pouting properties (particularly when placed only in the center of the lips), Lady Bunny for its starlike shine, and Emerald for its dangerous - when - wet look, "If you really want an extra oomph on your mouth, use black eye pencil to line the lips. By

# VIEWPOINT

## On Dressing and Passing

Passing, passing, passing. It seems to be the most common subject we talk about, and I'm almost sick of hearing of it already (I'm not really, I'm just being bitchy). Every time I hear of some poor CDer scared to come out of the closet, what's the most common excuse? "I'm scared I can't pass." Of course the fact that some four months ago I was also still struck with this dreaded illness now seems almost irrelevant! Was I really so scared such a short time ago?

Everyone who has not read Empress Teri's throne speech in the last Illusions, put this magazine down and go read her article - now! Then go have a makeover lesson with Ty Morgan and REALLY LISTEN to what he has to say about passing. You'll never want to just go shopping for turnips in Safeway again!

The point is, stop worrying about passing and just go out and have fun with it. Everyone has their own way of doing this. When I first joined Illusions I dressed nice but conservatively. I just wanted to pass in terms of blending into society as a girl. I wanted to be able to walk down the street and not be noticed. And I



## THRONE SPEECH

(cont'd from Page 1)

constantly felt that I was not successful. I was not having a good time. I felt I was not passing; I felt everyone was looking at me and for all the wrong reasons.

But my attitude has changed. After meeting and partying with Michele, Teri, Gina, and others, after being involved in some of the glam events, I have changed my mind. To heck with blending. I want to be noticed! It's fun!

So I have made an effort to learn something about glamour from Ty, Michele Hart, and Brenda Lee (of Rodeo Drive Collectibles in Edmonton). I have changed to a more dramatic face and much tarter clothes. I now make little or no effort to blend in, in fact I put effort into being noticed! Passing? Who knows if I'm passing? But I'll tell you one thing - I'm having a lot more fun!

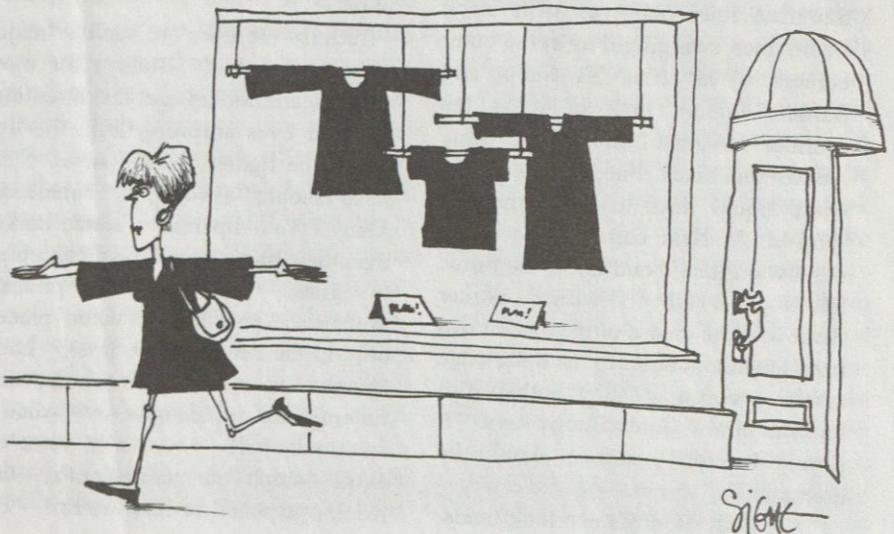
Being glamorous makes me feel good.

When I feel good, I feel confident. When I'm confident, I feel assured. Then I can pass.

And if I don't pass, I don't care, I still feel glamorous; I still feel good.

But remember, nothing destroys glamour faster than self consciousness.

Roxanne S. Hurd-Pride



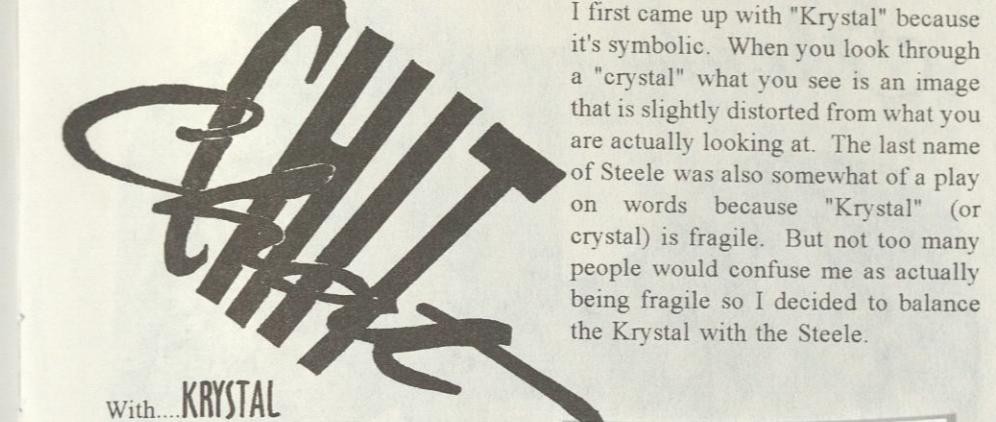
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S. Hurd



With....KRYSTAL

### ILLUSIONS: When did you first start crossdressing?

Most people are really surprised to hear that the very first time I had the desire to throw a couple of balloons under my shirt was when I was about thirty years old. Considering I'm serious about the SRS concept, it's kinda hard to believe.

### ILLUSIONS: Any idea what triggered it?

What I recall is that it was the last year of my second marriage and one night I was watching a porn movie. Something happened in my mind where I switched from wanting to, you know, be with the woman - to just BE the woman. After the divorce, the feelings got stronger and stronger so I decided to really start going out a lot as Kevin - with the hope that I would meet another woman who would get these thoughts out of my head.

So I went out a lot, met a lot of women but the thoughts just kept getting stronger all the time. I came to the difficult conclusion that I honestly and truly wanted to become a woman. I look at it now as a great adventure! How many people get to really live two lives in one? Go where few men have gone before?! I'm fortunate because I have far fewer constraints on my life than others who wish to pursue this. I never had any children, I own my own mail order sort of business and with the exception of a brother in Texas, I'm not very close with my family - so if they "disown" me, it's not a huge deal to me, anyway.

ILLUSIONS: How did you decide on the name Krystal Steele?

I first came up with "Krystal" because it's symbolic. When you look through a "crystal" what you see is an image that is slightly distorted from what you are actually looking at. The last name of Steele was also somewhat of a play on words because "Krystal" (or crystal) is fragile. But not too many people would confuse me as actually being fragile so I decided to balance the Krystal with the Steele.

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### ILLUSIONS: Any comments on Krystal's, ah, taste in clothes?

When (not if!) I go all the way toward being Krystal, it'll probably get worse! Right now I'm still limited as to how tight or how low cut something can be. (Krystal limited? Not!) I just really get a rush from the provocative look. And it's NOT a phase! Another thing I consider is that if people are spending most of the time looking at legs and "cleavage" they aren't spending a huge amount of time looking at your face under a microscope. Of course, I do wear just jeans and a "normal" top if I'm doing something like seeing Miles on a Saturday afternoon. I'll admit that if I really want to absolutely "pass" I'll go with the jeans look just because someone my size is going to get a lot of attention just for being 6' tall in the first place. Being 6' tall, wearing 4" heels and a micro-mini is a look I reserve for going to places where I know the crowd is "alternative" in nature. Calgary's alternative scene isn't overly huge so practically everyone has seen Krystal a number of times so I can feel at ease with the "provocative" look.

### ILLUSIONS: You've mentioned you are seeing Dr. Miles, are you presently taking any other steps toward your goal?

I guess anyone who wasn't aware of my plans, are certainly aware now! Not to mention everyone who reads this fine magazine in all of Canada and the U.S.! Yike! I think I've now blown any chance I had of one day being Prime Minister!

To answer your question though, yes, I'm doing as much as is presently possible to do. That means hormones and the weekly, bank account draining process of facial electrolysis. I do intent to get a little facial surgery done to permanently raise the eyebrows and I wouldn't even consider the SRS until I've had voice surgery done to at least soften my present voice.

### ILLUSIONS: Any funny stories to relate....?

Actually, one of the funniest events to happen to me had to do with the

(continued on page 22).....

# Illusions Ghouls

## Knock'em Dead on Hallowe'en

Hallowe'en is so widely anticipated by crossdressers it might almost be considered their national holiday. Probably it has been the occasion for more CDs to come out and show themselves in public for the first time than any other. So it's no surprise the "ghouls" of Illusions weren't content with one Hallowe'en celebration, they had to have two.

The closest social to the big day was Thursday, October 26. Gina and Coreen decorated the Pink Palace in grand style with an assortment of lights, cut-outs and inflatable ghosts, bats and other scary apparitions, while Stephanie and Teresa carved jack-o'lanterns from a pair of pumpkins (all raw materials supplied by the Social Committee and made possible by members' generous support of their fund-raising activities). Empress Teri supplied a copious quantity of her bewitchingly delicious home-made chocolates done in seasonal motifs. As if checking out the costumes weren't entertainment enough, Teri also lip-synched Elvira's "Monsta Rap" in eye-catching make-up by Ty Morgan and a costume slit high enough up the thigh to give you a nose bleed. Princess Jacqui followed up with one of her trademark country and western tunes. Krystal, in one of her more demure looks, and Stephanie, decked out as Mae West, took home prizes in the costume competition.

Saturday night let us have a second kick at the (black) cat, as that was the day most city establishments held their Hallowe'en celebrations. After a rendez-vous at the Boxxe, we split up into groups. Stephanie and Susan led one group to the Hard Rock Café's "Rock and Roll Ball of Fame", while others proceeded directly to special celebrations at the Midnight Café. Stephanie (as Mae West again) and Susan (as Whoopi Goldberg's "Sister Act" character) won first prize in the

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couples costume competition at the Hard Rock, taking home a pair of tickets to an upcoming Ray Charles concert. Susan also won a draw for a trip for two to Cleveland, home of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. After dancing up a storm to the live band with Wanda and studiously avoiding the doorman (an acquaintance who, fortunately, didn't recognize her), Teri headed over to the Midnight to reprise her Elvira number. The whole gang then made its way over to Trax to catch Ty & Tyme's second-last show, a tribute to disco guaranteed to send you out in pursuit of either a pair of sequined platform shoes or a pile of old disco LPs to burn! (We'll have one more chance to see them on Nov. 25 at midnight at Trax before Justine moves to Vancouver). After the show, Gina (as Marie "Let-them-eat-cake" Antoinette) and Teri entered Trax's costume competition, with Teri eventually taking second place behind a glittering Dame Edna.

After two nights of fiendishly good times, most of us were probably glad to sit home on the 31st and hand out candy to the trick-or-treaters. Start planning next year's costumes now, though, gals--next year Hallowe'en falls on the evening of our Thursday



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Krystal...from page 19....

"photo shoot" for this issue's cover and the other pictures within. We had myself and a "crew" of three other people outside the front of Illusions at 3 o'clock on a Saturday afternoon. There is a fair amount of traffic on Ogden Road at three o'clock on a Saturday afternoon! What a rush! I felt like I was doing a lay-out for Cosmo of something from all the cars and trucks which were honking and slowing down for a closer look! I had wanted to do just a "bra and panty" shot (naturally) but the crew chief (Barbi) vetoed the idea. First step; Illusions cover next - Penthouse! What a dreamer, eh?!

Another funny story had to do with this year's Illusions' Halloween social. I decided to show up in a "costume" that would cause hardly anyone to recognize me. It worked and I even won a prize. The "costume" was, of course, for me to show up as pretty much a "normal" looking woman with all her clothes on! Helllllooooo!

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ILLUSIONS: If you could offer one tip to the readers, what might it be?

Well, I'll take this opportunity to say three things I wouldn't like to have to say to any one member in particular, so I'll say it to everyone at the same time - beard cover, beard cover, beard cover! The face is the most crucial part to looking fem. I mean you could

theoretically be wearing balled up socks for breasts and nobody will notice - but if your beard is showing, EVERYONE notices. I see a lot of girls whose make-up is really good - except for the beard cover. My advice is if you are not sure about how well your beard cover is working or not working - ask someone who you know will be perfectly honest with you. Other than that, I just want to say thanks to Barbi and Christine for being on the cover and everything.

## TRANSCRIME :

with GINA

Few things are more frustrating than discovering that peers, friends, or whoever you are acquainted with may be guilty of thievery. Yet the sad fact remains that shoplifting does occur at Illusions, either while the shop is open or during the Socials. Now I'm not trying to point any fingers or make any false accusations, such as the party or parties responsible could ONLY be Illusions people, but on a number of occasions all other possibilities have been ruled out. This disturbs and disheartens me not only for the simple fact that it could have been someone whom I respect and admire but also that it has the ability to reflect on me. Do I want to be known as someone who associates with petty thieves or even condones this sort of behaviour? My answer is a flat NO!

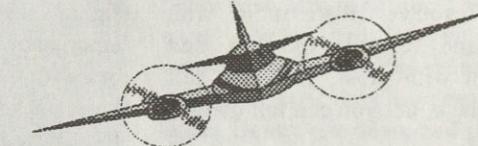
I don't need to give any specifics these culprits know who they are and will always have to live with the consequences of their actions in one way or another. I have yet to meet a "mature" individual who can honestly say that they are happy with stealing anything. This becomes compounded, of course, by the fact that they have stolen from friends and benefactors, people who have opened themselves up through their own generosity and TRUST.

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environment has been eroded by some callous individuals still refuse to lose even a modicum of faith in my sisters. the best approach that I can think of is for us to independently keep eyes and ears open for any articles that have one missing from the store front. Make yourselves familiar with some of these things by talking to Barbie or Christine and you could help to solve some of these mysterious disappearances.

I certainly do enjoy the privilege of being able to go into the storefront during Socials to try on some of the wigs etc. and dread the idea of this privilege being refused because B&B can't trust us. It's a strange thought, but the idea of banning is one answer to this particular dilemma. I still believe that the best answer is for us to police ourselves. Remember too, that the next time you come to the shop during business hours that Barbie, Christine, or Brian are sometimes too busy working on their creations in the back to jump up every time the door opens, having an extra body around to greet customers is a great help, and in my experience much appreciated.

like to think that I can trust my friends and associates. I truly believe that no one would PURPOSELY hurt a friend, yet in moments of reckless abandon, people do stupid things. Acting stupid is not a crime but not owning up to it is. I would just like to see a little respect paid to the people who have given myself and others the opportunity and the responsibility of living our lifestyle in a respectable environment. Although this



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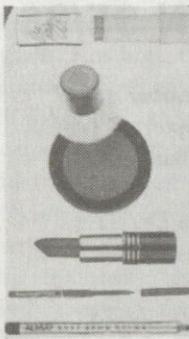
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the time you've filled it in with lipstick and blended the line and covered it with gloss, you can't tell that it's black, but you can tell that it's something."



## TORA

**Tora's tools:**  
Bob Kelly Creme Stick, Guerlain Terracotta Pour Homme, Revlon Love That Red lipstick, and Almay Lipcolor Pencil and Soft Brow Color.

So where does the "something" (or what's behind it) come from? Finding the best tools for this trade is, it happens, as challenging and unpredictable as finding that perfect Chanel jacket in that perfectly dreadful yard sale. But these divas, of course, know how to shop for makeup, and they comb the streets looking for good products. "The problem with makeup stores," says Lady Bunny, "is they do not stock properly. You become attached to a certain powder, and then the next time you go to buy it, they don't have it. They're always out of everything." For successful makeup-gathering missions, Lady Bunny recommends street markets, especially for frosted shadows. "They're dirt cheap, and they often stock colors you can't find anymore," she says. Noby goes to drugstores. "They have everything," she says.

Lady Bunny, Emerald, Noby and Tora roll their collective eyes at what they see as the makeup ignorance of the female population at large. According to Tora, "Women don't like experimenting with their faces. They're scared to try new looks, to play with what's given to them. They'll wear one or maybe two eyeshadows instead of five."

Still, these makeup experts admit there are a select few women out there who suffer from the opposite malady and whose penchant for over experimentation could give makeup a bad name. Noby claims the French

figure skater Surya Bonaly needs emergency help. "Why they let her go out with that eye makeup--lines up to here, out to there, terrible colors, I'll never know," she laments. Emerald thinks Madonna looks confused: "She's always changing, it makes her look like she doesn't know what she wants."

Then there are women, Lady Bunny says, labouring under the less is more delusion. Jamie Lee Curtis pops into her mind, for instance. "At the moment," Bunny says, "she is extraordinarily plain, but she has potential, and Mariah Carey's eyes lack character."

Does anyone, one begins to wonder, get it exactly right? "No one can touch Barbara Eden. Or Elizabeth Taylor in Boom!" says Lady Bunny. "That was the ultimate challenge of frosted shadow. Then there's Janet Jackson. She's looking more and more like a transsexual every day, wearing false eyelashes and all. It's great." Noby thinks that Chita Rivera has the best eye makeup, while Emerald's personal favorite is Michelle Pfeiffer.

**Fake eyelashes, supreme contouring, and loads of lipstick--that's what drag queens are made of.**



Emerald also gives accolades to the well-coiffed Ivana Trump and Cindy Crawford. "They really know what they are doing, she says."

All agree that the essence of makeup, it's "funness," has fallen prey to little blue suits and the corporate challenge. "The power of makeup," Emerald says, "is you can do anything." Or, for that matter, be anyone.

"Makeup can be an enhancement or a mask, allowing you to become someone else -- Cher, Marilyn Monroe, or whoever," Tora preaches. "The first commandment is, Don't be afraid of it. It's there to help you."

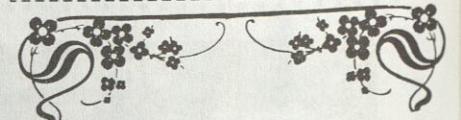
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## Grow your own

**- Nails that is!**  
by Roxanne S. Hurd-Pride

Look, when it comes to nails there really is only one choice: to look classy you've got to have a nice set of long nails. If you're dressed glam but can only flash a set of red stubbies, well you're going to generate some "what's wrong with this picture?" interest. And people do notice your hands because when you reach out, well your hands do the leading, and people do look at what's coming at them! Short nails are just not an option, so drop that idea right now. Further, a good set of long, colourful nails tops off an image by lengthening the fingers, thus giving a more fem appearance to your paws.

Ok, so now we've established that we need them. Next, how do we get 'em? Well, there are two choices: artificial or real. As with all things, both have positive and negative attributes. A few points to consider: Artificial: easy to hide in everyday life because you ain't got any; always even in size and can be any length for any occasion; easy to paint because you don't have to use your left hand (you can even lay them out and spray paint them on the table); feel funny because they really aren't a part of you, a bitch to glue on; you'll lose one in a bowl of popcorn (hey, I've seen it happen!), or when you open the door, and you'll have to go through the rest of the night looking like a digital amputee; a bitch to deal with in a quick costume change, etc.

Real: difficult to hide in everyday life, so don't bother; come in one size, often irregular, whatever you've grown them to that's what you've got and breakage makes for an often uneven set; difficult to paint unless your ambidextrous; feel real good because they're a part of you; no gluing on, but do require everyday maintenance; you will never lose a whole nail, but you may split one in a cat fight; easy to dress with and live with because they grow slowly and you can get used to them.

Your basic tool box: nail hardener (Sally Hansen Maximum Growth or Avon Non-split bonder are excellent); nail files (3-4 grades from coarse to ultra fine); Pro10 Gel Starter kit; nail scissors. Total cost: about \$25.00.

Look at your nails every day (no



problem if you're as vain as me) and check for splits and nicks. I run all my nails up and down on an old pair of panty hose. Any little nicks will catch easily (hey, how do you think I learned this trick?). File those buggers off right away; they are precursors to splits. Gently file down nail tips about once a week to keep the ends strong. Nail hardener goes on like nail polish. Sally Hansen says to put theirs on every day; Avon, whenever the hardener looks thin or starts to dull. Both of them really add a lot of strength to the nail; they prevent chipping and splitting and reduce wear at the nail tip. They also make it tougher to chew them off if you're so inclined! Be forewarned - both products dry to a high gloss finish so your nails will stand out.

Now say you've got a physical job and your nails are getting banged up a lot or, despite your best efforts, you've got a dreaded nail rip. Well these situations can easily be fixed with the Pro10 Gel Starter kit! It's available at London Drugs for about \$16.00. Simply follow their instructions exactly. With this kit you lay down an ultra-thin layer of gauze over your nail and then seal it to the nail with gel hardeners. The nails look virtually natural but they become extremely tough. Put gauze on all your nails as a preventative measure; if you do so they should survive virtually any torture you put them through outside of an acid bath. Continue to use gel hardeners or other hardeners on a regular basis. You will have to switch to a non-acetone nail polish remover if you use gels.

For me, I just use the kit when I get a nail rip. I've got two of them on now and it's very difficult to tell them from the rest of the nails. One tip, lay down the gauze right to the edge of the nail on the side it is ripped on; sealing that edge and then filing it smooth is essential to ensuring that the nail survives. If the rip is deep or close to the finger tip and the nail is long I advise you to cut the nail back just a bit. Yes, I know, it's painful to see that beautiful nail cut down but it's better than breaking it again and having to wear a stubby for months!

Now if I could just get my right hand

nails to be as long as my left!

# EMBARRASSING MOMENTS.....

One Sunday afternoon I decided to head off to one of the local shopping centres. After boarding the bus, I proceeded to a seat when I heard a loud tearing noise, it sounded like the seam of my slacks had split, or someone was passing gas.

Talk about being embarrassed, I got off the bus at the next stop and went into a restaurant washroom to survey the damage. It was not my slacks that had split, upon further examination I discovered that my pantyhose had split down the back seam, oh well, so much for one size fits all \$0.99c pantyhose.

## EMBARRASSING MOMENTS

No 2.

On Sunday morning after the ILLUSIONS third Birthday party, I was sitting in my hotel room enjoying a cup of coffee when our driver informed me we were leaving in thirty minutes to head home and would stop for breakfast near Crossfield.

I hastily packed for the journey. When we entered the restaurant the hostess greeted us and showed us to a table in the far corner, where she gave me an odd look. One of our group asked me if I made a habit of wearing lipstick to breakfast.

## EMBARRASSING MOMENTS

No 3.

One evening after getting dressed to go to a coffee party with the girls, I noticed one of my stockings had a run. So into my stocking collection I went and grabbed a spare that appeared to be the same shade. When I arrived at the party, the hostess congratulated me on my selection of stockings. One beige and one neutral. Since that moment, I have a practice of carrying a matching pair in my purse.

## EMBARRASSING MOMENTS

No 4.

I am usually in the habit of careful preparation in getting ready for our ILLUSIONS meetings. Such as doing the makeup routine, then putting on my dress and hair then the stockings. While doing the stocking routine my phone rang, and after graciously informing the caller I would call him soon, I rushed out the door of my apartment into the elevator then through the building foyer. I felt one of my stockings slide down my leg to my ankle. After getting into the cab, I proceeded to make the necessary correction, I don't know if I made the cab driver's day, but he sure gave me a strange look.

## EMBARRASSING MOMENTS

No 5.

The day after going out to one of the local safe bars dressed to the nines, I got on the bus and showed the driver my pass, he congratulated me on my beautiful red nails.

All I have to say about the above described moments is "WHY ME LORD". Love, Joanne, #250, Edmonton.

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## Pregnant pause

The Terminator coming to full term in *Junior* is a tongue-in-cheek fantasy about a pregnant man. But here's a non-cinema twist: Although there are huge risks and the odds are against it, male pregnancy is possible. What's needed, says David Haig, Ph.D., an evolutionary biologist at Harvard University, is not so much a uterus as a placenta. "The placenta has evolved to take nutrients from the

bloodstream. It doesn't care whether the blood is in the liver, the intestines or the uterus." What's also needed: a willing man and an in vitro-fertilized egg settled securely into the omentum (a flap of tissue in the abdominal cavity). If a Mr. Mom in the not-too-distant future seems far-fetched, consider how impossible sex change seemed just 40 years ago.



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STUART RITCHIE

## WHAT IS ARGRA?

*Remember the Rodeo? The organization that ran that great event was ARGRA. Many of us have seen this acronym, but know little about the organization, so we interviewed the past (1994-95) President of ARGRA, Stuart Ritchie.*

## So what does ARGRA stand for?

Contrary to popular myth, it does **not** stand for the Alberta Really Gay Rodeo Association, it stands for the Alberta **Rockies** Gay Rodeo Association. We used to be AGRA, but we added "Rockies" in 1994 to avoid conflict with the Arizona association's acronym.

## How did ARGRA get started?

AGRA was established around 1990 by a group that had an interest in the Western way of life. In 1992 and 1993 they held a couple of fun rodeos, and then in late 1993 they applied and were sanctioned by the International Gay Rodeo Association (IGRA). When we got sanctioned a bunch of people said let's get together and put on a really big rodeo in 1994. It was by all indications a success, and 1995 was even bigger and better.

## What is ARGRA's purpose?

ARGRA's mandate is to promote and provide a venue for those who like the Western way of life, i.e. cowboys, cowgirls, etc. We have a lot of people who were brought up on farms and this is part of their heritage. The purpose of the organization was to bring some of these people together and educate those who had an interest but maybe didn't have the background.

## Apart from the Rodeo, what else does ARGRA do?

We put on barn dances and socials, and we run clinics from time to time in riding, roping, some of the rodeo skills, etc. We also provide support to other parts of the community, either by donating money we have raised or by helping as volunteers. For example,

the rodeo. Organization and planning for next year's event has already been going on for four or five weeks. Those that do the circuit love the Symon's Valley Ranch location because it's all in one place and has an RV park. Les and Ellen Jones, who are the owners, have been very supportive. I don't think there are as many rednecks out there as some true rednecks say there are, because we've been accepted very, very well. All of our suppliers of stock, boarding services, supplies, ambulance and medical people, etc. have all been so supportive.

## What's the key to pulling it off successfully?

We always try to act in a professional manner. The budget is very substantial even with all the volunteer work. And there's a great deal of personal reward from volunteering. We've never had any problem getting volunteers. We don't have a lot of people who drop out of the organization, apart from those who move away, and that adds strength and continuity.

## I understand you also have a pageant of some kind...

We hold a royalty contest for a Ms. ARGRA (a female), a Mr. ARGRA (a male), and a Miss ARGRA (a male in drag) at the end of October. It's judged on a personal interview, horsemanship, Western special occasion wear and Western streetwear. If you want to go on to participate in the international IGRA pageant, you must also raise US\$500 for charity throughout the year. Paul (a.k.a. Polly Darton) has been our Miss for the last year has done a great job. He puts on a wig and dress and doesn't shave, he keeps his beard on, but is beloved within the whole ARGRA organization. You may have some members who would be interested in running in future years. Our Miss is Mary, an excellent horsewoman. We don't currently have a Mr.

## So when is next year's rodeo?

It will be at the same place, Symon's Valley Ranch, June 28-30, 1996, which is the July 1 weekend.

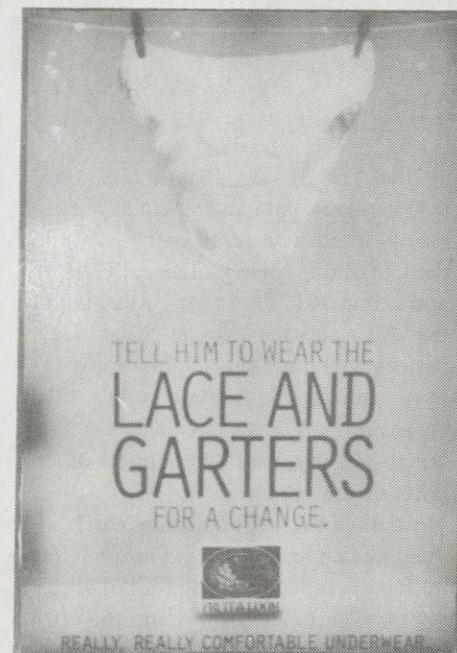
**We can't wait!! For more info:**  
ARGRA, P.O.Box 23064, Connaught RPO, Calgary, AB, T2S 3B1.

## CROSS-DRESSING GOES COMMERCIAL!

MAC recently caused quite a stir in the advertising world when they selected RuPaul, an almost seven-foot tall drag performer, to be their spokesperson. In the hip world of fashion cosmetics, this attention-getting move may have been unusual, but it probably didn't shock anyone. Now, however, staid old Fruit of the Loom, a major US garment manufacturer best known for comfortable-but-dull men's undershirts and briefs, has gone a step further. Their latest mass ad campaign actually urges women to get their significant others to crossdress! The ads, which have appeared in numerous Calgary Transit bus shelters, suggest women "Tell him to wear the lace and garters for a change" as a means of promoting their new line of "really, really comfortable underwear" for women. The ads might even be considered to promote two-way cross-dressing, since the ladies' line is basically men's-style cotton briefs tailored for the female shape (and minus the redundant flap!).

Though no doubt tongue-in-cheek, the ads may reflect a tendency for acceptance of cross-genderism to be "cool" --if not in mainstream society, then at least in fashionable circles. An executive at Canada's largest commercial production house recently described a "proposed Scott Paper Ltd. ad that showed an attractive woman performer taking off her make-up with a Scott paper towel. In the final scene, she removes her wig [and] we realize she's a guy" (Globe and Mail, Oct. 12, 1995, p. B12). Scott Paper has yet to use the ad, but the mere fact that it would be proposed is surely a hopeful sign.

Even if this trend doesn't catch on enough to allow us to pay for our frocks with a part-time modelling career, we may still be able to benefit from it. Maybe a gift of Fruit of the Loom's new underwear to your spouse could be a way to broach "the" topic and support a progressive campaign at the same time?



## ILLUSIONS

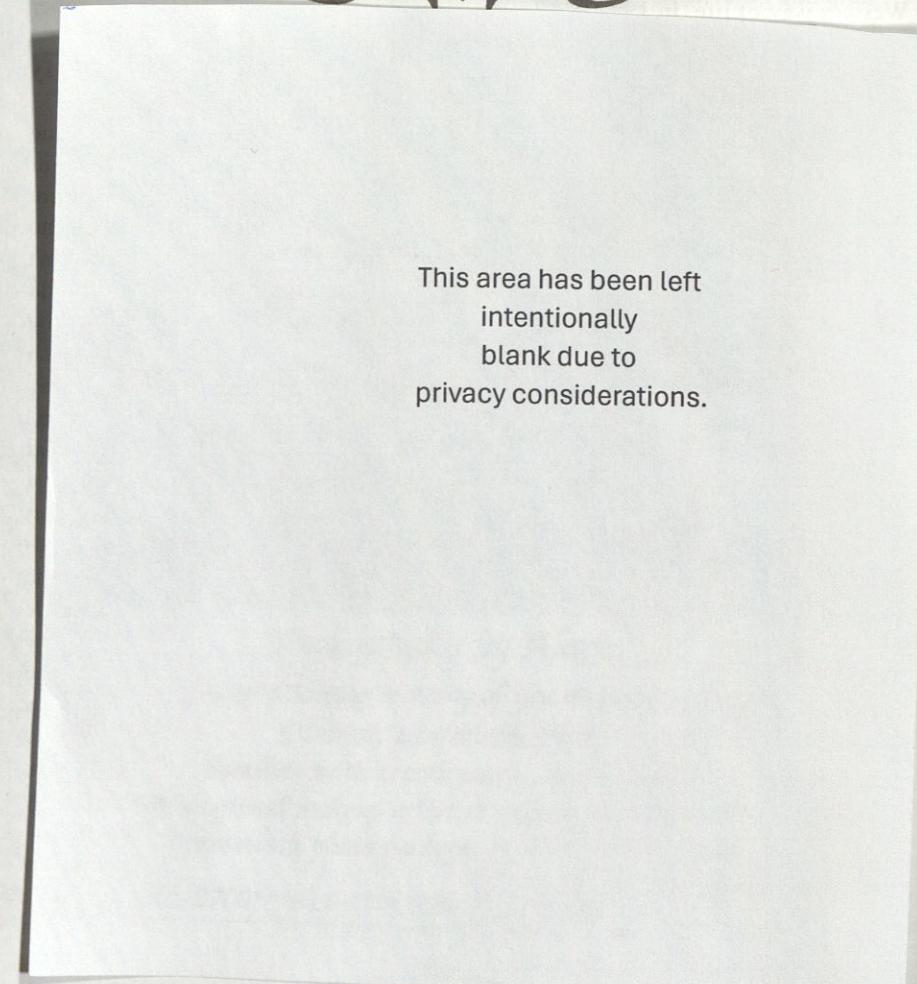
### HITS THE AIRWAVES

On Wednesday, October 18, CBC Radio 1010AM's Morning Eyeopener program broadcast a 7-minute piece on Illusions. Leo Cripps, a freelance reporter on pop culture, had been to the shop and attended a Thursday social, where he interviewed several members who volunteered. The final version of his piece featured Teri, Jacqui and Leslie. Leo's piece was positive and upbeat, and emphasized the idea that crossdressers are, in most other respects, pretty normal. A tape of the program is available at the club for those who weren't up at 6:45AM that morning to catch it.

Thanks for the great coverage, Leo!



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## Autobiography of a Lifelong Transvestite

Chinese philosophers have been seeking the Tao, or "The Way" and understood it as the right way of life in a moral sense. This was represented as the T'ai Chi Tu or the diagram of the Supreme Ultimate, a circle in which there are two opposing forms representing the female and the male in each person, the Yin and the Yang. These opposites were considered to be in harmony and to neutralize each other.

Within me, for as long as I can remember, the Yin and the Yang have been in constant battle. As a small boy of four, I remember dressing up in my sister's clothes. As I grew up and went to boarding school, I did all the male things like boxing and rugby, but I always wanted to be a girl. I joined the British Army at the age of seventeen and fought in World War Two, rising rapidly through the ranks until I was a Lieutenant at the age of nineteen, commanding a platoon of thirty men in action. When the war ended and I was demobilised, I suffered a tremendous culture shock, being relegated from an Officer and a Gentleman to a "Bum" with no skills other than those of a soldier.

I then wandered the world like a lost soul for seven years, mainly doing security work. There were some scary moments when I really had to concentrate on my job, but I could never see a well dressed woman without wanting to be like her. I could never pass a lady's dress store without wishing I could wear clothes like those. When on leave or not on duty, I would buy women's clothes and wear them in the privacy of a hotel room, but always wishing I could be with people who would understand. In this way, I scattered female clothes all over the world.

I always had a strong sexual attraction to girls, but when it came to sex, I could perform well and enjoyed it, but afterwards, I had a terrible let-down. I did not feel the fulfilment which I sensed my partner had achieved. She would sleep, contented, while I lay feeling jealous of her femaleness.

Apart from my wife, four women have seen me in female attire. In all cases, they have been extremely kind, and have remained better friends after than they were before they knew. With men, I have been very nervous as to their reaction, and have not allowed myself to be seen. Perhaps this is because the sort of men I have associated with in my "yang" personality have been more of the macho kind.

In my early thirties, I settled down to a career, but the battle between Yin and Yang continued unabated. Fortunately, my wife of many years (who knew before we were married), supported men, and we have children and grandchildren whom I love dearly. Now that I am getting older, I have learned to accept myself as I am.

The tumult has subsided and I have learned to be at peace with both sides of my personality.

I must admit that to tell Barbie about myself was an ordeal more nerve-wracking than any previous life-threatening experience. I shall be eternally grateful to her for her acceptance and kindness. When she told me to stay in my female clothes and read and enjoy myself while she finished sewing for me, I felt I had come home. However, I do not think that I shall be able to come out completely, as I fear that my children and grandchildren may suffer the awful agony of facing the misunderstanding and prejudice if my gender-identity struggle were to be made public.

### The World Famous 8th Annual TEXAS "T" PARTY...

Hits the Road!  
Feb. 27 - Mar. 3, 1996  
in DALLAS, TEXAS!



Please include S.S.A.E.

This year, along with our great prices, great food, and even greater programs and entertainment, we are going to a great town....DALLAS, TEXAS. In '96 we will have more fun, more things to do, places to go, and at a better price than last year!! Your "T" Party is the only event in Genderworld that listens to you!! The "T" is run by and for transgendered folks who have a real interest in what you want!

For information call, write, or Fax:  
Texas "T" Party  
P. O. Box 17  
Bulverde, TX 78163  
Phone or Fax: (210)980-7788

# ...welcome to the *Illusions* Registry...

Look through the  
next 10 pages and meet us.

- We are a group of over 200 crossdressers, transsexuals and friends. We provide a safe, discrete and welcoming atmosphere.
- We get together at low-key meetings and party nights at our facility. Sponsored guests are welcome.
- We maintain discretion and cleanliness.

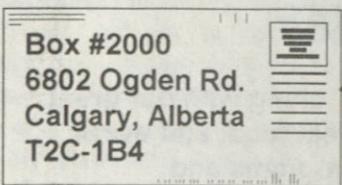
## Responding to an Illusions Ad or Classified? (It's easy)



- Seal your letter
- Affix postage
- In pencil, write the member's ad or the classified number on the envelope



- Add \$2



- Your letter and the \$2 go into another envelope and are mailed to this address

Your now on the way to meeting new friends

### The Classified Ad

This is part of the Illusions Registry where individuals can place an ad beyond the scope of the regular registry. Where discretion is needed, inexpensive business advertising, or the sale of personal items this is the venue. Respond to these ads as you do with the registry.

*The rates per issue, including GST are:*

**Personal Ads \$10.70**

**Business Ads \$16.05**

Illusions Newsletter assumes no responsibility for unpleasant encounters or sales as a result of the classified ads. Illusions Newsletter will not be responsible for lost or misdirected mail. Classified ads will not be accepted over the phone; please place your ad in person or through the mail.

### **Join the ladies of Illusions**

*Your membership with us gets you:*

- 6 Illusions magazines, sent either to your door, box or the club
- Free advertisement in the magazine registry
- Privilege to attend Illusions socials
- Check out of club library materials
- Use of club changing, make-up and lounging facilities during the day

**Your's for only \$40**

If you are in the Calgary area, visit us at the shop of Lingerie by Barbie-B & B Leatherworks. This is the address:

**Illusions Social Club  
6802 Ogden Rd S.E.  
Calgary, Alberta  
T2C-1B4  
Canada**

If you are from out of town, write us to the above address. Tell us about yourself, send a photo if you want to be in the registry and include a cheque or money order in Canadian funds for \$40 made out to *Illusions Social Club*.

If you prefer to just receive the magazine, no problem. We'll send it to you in a plain brown wrapper. The price is still \$40.

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#346 Zoe

#347 Jeremy F-M Transsexual recently moved to U.S.A. Would like to keep in touch with group and hear from other F-M's.

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#348 LAURIE TV & girlfriend, new to CD'ing. Both enjoy femme outings & meeting others. Looking for letters / photo exchange with other TV's.

#349 Jennifer #350 Felicia  
#351 Jill #352 Darlene  
#353 Susan #354 Allyson  
#355 Tracy #356 Trina  
#357 Mandy #359 Jan  
#360 Beverly #361 Janis  
#362 Darlene

#363 Karrie Very sincere friendship, open to letters and comments of other dressers.

#364 Breanna #365 Roxanne  
#366 Ty #367 Tiffany  
#368 Racheal #369 Ricki  
#370 Robert #371 Debbie  
#372 Steffi Keller #373 Linda

**CALLING ALL WRITERS!**  
Have you had an exciting experience or can you impart some sage wisdom to our readers?

Send us your story on computer disc (Both sizes of disc, in WP, Word or text format). Written and typed submissions also accepted.

390 Anna Christopher  
391 Rachel #392 Laurin  
393 Andrea

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## The Classifieds

### #1001 Mistress Black

Edmonton, Alta. 6'4" Goddess in black leather, 30 yrs. young, TV. Looking for the right subject to serve my whims. Enjoys bondage and discipline. Consideration given to sincere honest responses. Your picture gets fast response. So tell me your fantasies and we'll see what happens

#1006 Are you a Gentleman who would be interested in exploring a relationship with an attractive pre-op TS? I enjoy Candlelight dinners to walks in the park. For the right man, very sensual times exploring our fantasies. A letter with your photo gets an immediate response

*Responding to a classified advertiser is easy. Simply mail in your letter as you would to an Illusions member. See page 30 for full details.*

*Should you have a business or an interest that doesn't seem suitable for publication in the Illusions registry, this is your opportunity. Rates and full details for the classifieds are on page 30.*

*The editors reserve the right to deny any classified advertisement that is unsuitable for this publication. For information please call 404-236-7072*

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### Deadline for Volume 5 Issue 5 of *Illusions*

This is our New Year issue that will be sold January and February of 1996. The publishers request that all advertising and written material for the magazine be submitted before the end of December 1995.

Computer discs and camera ready art work is appreciated.

#380 NICOLE Sny but sensual lady, with the passion for silk and satin. I'd love to share my experiences with others. Please drop me a note and a photo.

#387 Joanne #388 Patti  
#389 Nicole

# Sonya -- Duz "Her" 25th High School Reunion

Upon hearing that my high school was planning a 25 year class reunion I realised what a great opportunity this would be for my teachers and classmates to meet the "real" me. The reunion took place in the town of Salmon Arm at the end of this past July. Dan and Gina provided the moral support for the two day event. Friday the 29th, the first night, was a wine and cheese social gathering and Saturday was a dinner and dance.

We arrived in Dana's camper van we christened "Lisa Marie". After settling in at the local campground we began our "Transformations". Dana and Gina were radiant and I took the opportunity to dress on a more casual side. We arrived at the Elks hall for the "Wine and Cheese" and Gina had the video camera ready. The place was alive with people chatting, reminiscing and catching up on the latest details of their lives.

## "A Practical Joke?.... Not This Time!"

The first people I encountered upon entering were my old Phys. Ed. teacher and the Vice-Principal. In school I was a high profile jock type and also known as a bit of a prankster. Needless to say first impressions were that this was some kind of a joke. I had quite a chore in store trying to convince people this was not a prank.

After the initial shock had subsided, people were genuinely interested in my story and I was glad to fill them in on the details of my journey. The women of course the first to lend their ears and minds for the discussions. Eventually one of my close friends from school, Rick, edged his way in, explaining that he had been elected by the "guys" to find out what was going on. Upon discovering that this was no joke he was stuck for questions.

One incident that left a positive impression in my mind was meeting a classmate, Sandy, whom I wasn't well

acquainted with, nor did we travel in the same circle. However I recall that her brother all through school was always trying to pick fights with me, anyhow Sandy walked up to me, gave me a great big hug, and said she heard about my situation and approved whole heartedly.

The rest of the evening was spent eating, drinking and chatting with the ladies who assembled themselves around us.

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as well as some more personal ones regarding my sexual orientation. We ended the conversation on the note that as long as you accept yourself for what you are, you will find happiness and serenity. It was agreed that while it took a lot of nerve to come as Sonya, it paled in comparison to the 30 plus years of hell that I spent in denial.

Another good friend and the M.C. for the dance, Greg, came over after Rick left and explained how he had felt uncomfortable trying to talk to me the previous evening. He felt that he had better try to understand my situation a little better and had gone to the library and done some research on the subject. These types of responses were common and I was proud to have personally been involved in the education of people who only had been mis-informed prior to this week end. At one point I made the comment that I should have used the opportunity of the open microphone instead of sounding like a broken record however, that may have made some people uncomfortable and that certainly wasn't my intention. Sure would have made things easier though.

## "The Talk of the Town"

We discovered another detail, it seems that somehow Dana, Gina and myself had become the talk of the town. Imagine that, us poor little city girls causing such a stir in Salmon Arm. While I was prepared for the worst, we were rewarded with some genuinely good times and memories.

In closing I would like to give a special thanks to Dana and Gina for their moral support and for behaving themselves! Those of you who know this terrible twosome will know what I mean by this remark. I look forward to hearing of other readers experiences on coming out, or even better yet, come on down to the "Club" and let's chat.

Love ..... Sonya #278

# Shopping Guide



**IN STOCK SELECTION  
OF MAID'S UNIFORMS  
(SMALL  
TO LARGE)**

**MAIDS OUTFITS!**

(Just for you!)

"Lingerie by Barbie" is now selling a gorgeous French Maids Outfit designed especially FOR YOU!

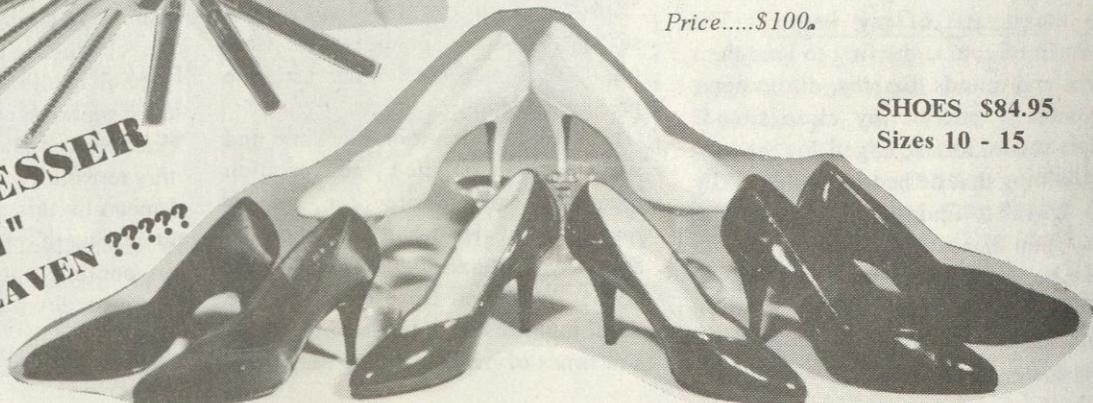
Satin at its Best, swishes around you as you carry on with your duties! Sizes come in Small, Med, Large and XL. Customizing available.

Price.....\$200.

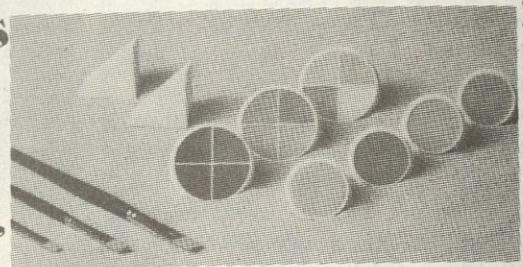
Order yours now from Lingerie by Barbie. 6802 Ogden Rd. S.E. Calgary, Alberta T2C 1B4 Canada or call at (403)236-7072.



**"CROSSDRESSER  
HAVEN"  
OR IS THAT HEAVEN?????**



**LINGERIE,  
LATEX  
SPANDEX,  
LEATHER**



**BEARD-COVER POTS**

Five O' Sharp. 1/4 oz. Three special shades neutralize beard shadows.

FS-1 Studio

FS-3 Olive      Price....\$17.85

FS-5 Ruddy

Single Color Pots best known for cover up

MY-1 Fair

MY- 2 Normal

MO-3 Medium      Price.....\$10.50

MO-4 Deep

**HOW TO ORDER?**

Money Orders or Visa...Write or Call; B&B Enterprises (403)236-7072

6802 Ogden Rd.S.E. Calgary, Alta T2C 1B4 Canada. (P.S.) Add \$3.00 for postage and 7% GST!

**MAKE UP KIT**

Designed specifically for the crossdresser. From novice to expert, these products will complete your successful transformation!

Price.....\$100.

**SHOES \$84.95  
Sizes 10 - 15**